

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is

1. A method in a processor-based system for setting accessibility performance characteristics comprising the steps of:
  - 5 providing a plurality of accessibility profiles, each accessibility profile containing one or more definitions of system accessibility performance characteristics; and
  - 10 setting system accessibility performance characteristics according to definitions contained within a selected accessibility profile.
- 10 2. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising
  - 15 assigning an accessibility profile to a system function or application program;
  - 20 setting system accessibility performance characteristics according to definitions contained within a said assigned accessibility profile when a system function is operated or application program is executed.
- 15 3. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the step of launching at least one companion application program or operating at least one companion system function as defined by said accessibility profile.
4. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a plurality 20 of accessibility profiles comprises providing a name for each accessibility profile.
5. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a plurality of accessibility profiles comprises providing groups of accessibility profiles

such that each group of accessibility profiles inherits the system accessibility performance characteristic definitions of its constituent accessibility profiles.

6. The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprises the step of transferring or copying one or more accessibility profiles from one system to another system.

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7. The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing accessibility profiles comprises providing an association between accessibility profiles and user names or user identifiers.

8. A computer-readable media containing computer-executable program code for setting accessibility performance characteristics of a computer-based system, said program code causing the computer-based system to perform the steps of:

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providing a plurality of accessibility profiles, each accessibility profile containing one or more definitions of system accessibility performance characteristics; and

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setting system accessibility performance characteristics according to definitions contained within a selected accessibility profile.

9. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 8 further comprising program code for:

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assigning an accessibility profile to a system function or application program;

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setting system accessibility performance characteristics according to definitions contained within a said assigned accessibility profile when a system function is operated or application program is executed.

10. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 8 further comprising program code for performing the step of launching at least one companion application program or companion system function as defined by said accessibility profile.

11. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said program code for providing a plurality of accessibility profiles comprises program code for providing a name for each accessibility profile.

12. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said program code for performing the step of providing a plurality of accessibility profiles comprises program code for providing groups of accessibility profiles wherein each group of accessibility profiles inherits the system accessibility performance characteristics definitions of its constituent accessibility profiles.

13. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 8 further comprising program code for transferring or copying one or more accessibility profiles from one system to another system.

14. The computer-readable media as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said program code for providing accessibility profiles comprises program code to associate accessibility profiles to user names or identifiers.

15. A system for managing user accessibility characteristics comprising:

1 a plurality of accessibility profiles, each accessibility profile defining a  
2 set of user-preferences for system accessibility characteristics for an assigned  
3 system function or application program; and  
4 an accessibility profile manager for setting system accessibility  
5 characteristics according to one or more accessibility profiles.

16. The system as set forth in Claim 15 wherein at least one accessibility profile  
contains an assignment to a system function or application program, and  
wherein said accessibility profile manager is adapted to set system  
accessibility characteristics according to an assigned accessibility profile  
10 responsive to operation of a system function or execution of an application  
program.

17. The system as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a companion operator  
for automatically operating a companion system function according to  
definitions in an accessibility profile.

15 18. The system as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a companion executor  
for automatically executing a companion application program according to  
definitions in an accessibility profile.

19. The system as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a group accessibility  
profile, said group accessibility profile defining a set of user-preferences for  
20 system accessibility characteristics for an assigned system function or  
application program according to inherited system accessibility characteristics  
definitions from a plurality of accessibility profiles.

20. The system as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a profile transferor for transferring and copying accessibility profiles between systems.
21. The system as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a profile namer for assigning user-defined names to accessibility profiles.
- 5 22. The system as set forth in Claim 15 further comprising a user ID associator which automatically selects an accessibility profile based upon a user-supplied identifier.